

# Standards of Public Land Health

## Evaluation of 64085 EAST MIDDLE FORK Allotment

### [ 01/09/2010 ]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 64085 EAST MIDDLE FORK. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
64085-ELMORE-E201	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for the public land in the East Middle Fork Allotment, 64085. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 assessed biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected at the trend study plot location within the allotment was utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluation are performed by the Roswell Field Office interdisciplinary teams, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. The collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's, are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 years. This allotment is in the "M" (Maintain) category.

This allotment contains 2,547 acres of public land. The study is located on a Loamy SD-3 ecological site. Only two of the indicators, Functional/Structural Groups and Invasive Plants, were rated as a Moderate degree of departure from the ecological site description. In both cases, it was due to the invasion and amount of mesquite. This area would be considered a candidate for a land treatment or brush control. All of the other indicators rated either "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate".

There are no riparian areas on public land within this allotment.

**Recommendations:** Roswell Field Office specialists recommend that the mesquite population be mapped and that a land treatment is planned and implemented. Continue rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet						
SITE 64085-ELMORE-E201						
Legal Land Desc	SESE 27 0060S 0230E Meridian 23	Acreage		2547		
Ecosite	042CY007NM LOAMY SD-3	Photo Taken		Y		
Watershed	13060003200 FIVE MILE					
Observers	ARNOLD, ORTEGA	Observation Date		01/09/2010		
County Soil Survey	NM644 CHAVES NORTH	Soil Var/Taxad				
Soil Map Unit	ACA	Soil Taxon Name		ALAMA		
Texture Class	NM644 L	Soil Phase		ALAMA- POQUITA		
Texture Modifier	NM644 LOAM					
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation		Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation				
NOAA Annual Precipitation		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation				
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation				
Disturbances and Animal Use:						
<b>Part 2. Attributes and Indicators</b>						
		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns				X	
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes				X	
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground				X	

Comments:						
S H	Gullies				X	
Comments:						
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:	Biological Soil crusts noted here.					
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:	Mesquite population influence					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups			X		
Comments:	Mesquite encroachment					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:						
B	Annual Production				X	
Comments:	appoximately 60% at this time.					
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	Mesquite					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants				X	
Comments:	grazed shorter than desired.					
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X

Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations					X
Comments:						
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable.					

### Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	6	4
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	8	3
B	Biotic	0	0	2	4	5

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	0	11
Biotic	Mesquite is encroaching, implementing a land treatment will bring these indicators back into line with the ecological site description.	0	2	9

Site Notes: Specialists recommend mapping for potential mesquite land treatment.

# **Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 64085 EAST MIDDLE FORK**

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, Including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within East Middle Fork, allotment #64085, meets the (1) Upland Sites standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment, therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman  
Acting Assistant Field Manager

02/19/2010  
Date